

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04647 211658Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----019739 211702Z /42
R 211428Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4061

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4647

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US PLO
SUBJ: SCRANTON/PLO MEETING IN LONDON

REF: STATE 166523

1. I HAD BEEN UNABLE SEE DAOUDY PRIOR JULY 21 TO
RELAY INFORMATION PARA 4 STATE REFTEL CONCERNING SCRANTON/
AQIL MEETING. NOTED THAT MEETING HAD SINCE BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED
PUBLICLY BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN BUT THAT I WISHED UNDER-
LINE FACT SCRANTON HAD MET WITH AQIL PURELY AS PRIVATE
CITIZEN AND WAS NOT AUTHORIZED SPEAK ON BEHALF USG.

2. DAOUDY SAID WE COULD ASSUME THAT SYRIA WAS VERY PLEASED
WITH SUCH MEETINGS AS IT WAS BY EVIDENT INTEREST IN
HEARING PLO VIEWPOINTS DEMONSTRATED BY OTHER AMERICANS
SUCH AS CODEL HAMILTON AND UPCOMING MEETING BETWEEN LANDRUM
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BOLLING AND ARAFAT. HE ADDED THAT SYRIA WOULD HAVE THOUGHT
IT "NORMAL," HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF OUR OTHER DISCUSSIONS, TO
HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF SCRANTON/AQIL MEETING BEFORE THE
FACT. I REPLIED THAT PHENOMENON HE WAS OBSERVING WAS
INCREASED CONTACT BETWEEN PLO AND MEMBERS OF AMERICAN
"ESTABLISHMENT" ACTING ON OWN. STRESSED THAERE WAS CLEAR
DISTINCTION BETWEEN MEETINGS OF PROMINENT AMERICANS, WHAT-

EVER THEIR BACKGROUND, WITH PLO AND WHATEVER PLO MEETINGS MIGHT EVER TAKE PLACE WITH OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

3. DAOUDY THEN SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION, THE LINE BETWEEN WHAT I DESCRIBED AS THE "ESTABLISHMENT" AND THE U.S. EXECUTIVE SEEMED BLURRED IN THE CASE OF THE SCRANTON/AQIL MEETING. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT THAT MEETING HAD BEEN THE PLO DRAFTED MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO PRINCE SAUD, WHICH FAHD AND SAUD HAD PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT CARTER DURING THE CROWN PRINCE'S WASHINGTON VISIT. I SAID IF THIS WERE A FACT, DAOUDY WAS BETTER INFORMED THAN I. HE ASKED ME TO TRY TO CONFIRM WHETHER HIS INFORMATION WAS CORRECT.

4. COMMENT:

AT TIMES DAOUDY DISPLAYS WHAT I WOULD CALL A "CURRENT EVENTS MENTALITY" FIRING OFF A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ARISING FROM HIS PERUSAL OF THE AREA AND EUROPEAN PRESS. IN THE INSTANCE OF US-PLO CONTACTS, HE IS SHOWING A DEEPER INTEREST. THERE WAS ALSO AN UNMISTAKABLE EDGE IN HIS IMPLICATION THAT SYRIA HAD SOME SORT OF RIGHT TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THESE CONTACTS. THIS IS ISSUE WHICH YOU MAY WISH ADDRESS DIRECTLY WITH ASSAD IN YOUR MEETING HERE.

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5. ACTION REQUESTED:

REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS WHAT, IF ANYTHING, FURTHER I SHOULD SAY TO DAOUDY.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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